

RAPID ASSESSMENT FORM FOR ECOLOGICAL CONDITION AND TREND

Sheet 1 of 4

Location (name, details): WAIPATIKI SCENIC RESERVE	Grid reference: W20/520060 Area (ha): 64.5 Ecological District: Waihua																																																																																																																			
Protective status/designation: Scenic Reserve	Managing agency: DOC																																																																																																																			
Observer(s): Geoff Walls	Date: 2/12/98																																																																																																																			
Route taken: Track system; eastern gully (Ruatoitoi Stream)	Time spent: 3 hours																																																																																																																			
Photos taken: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																																																																																																																				
Significant fauna site: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Significant flora site: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																																																																																																																				
Landform: Steepish hillslopes and spurs dissected by incised gullies																																																																																																																				
Altitude, Aspect: 10-220m asl; S aspect																																																																																																																				
Soil/rock type: Calcareous sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, limestone																																																																																																																				
Drainage: Various small streams; many seepages																																																																																																																				
Erosion: Little																																																																																																																				
Other notes:																																																																																																																				
ECOSYSTEM/HABITAT																																																																																																																				
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Primary</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Secondary</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">% area</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Beech forest</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Broadleaved forest</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">c.50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Podocarp forest</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">c. 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed 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VEGETATION					
Canopy cover (%): <input type="checkbox"/> 0-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75-100					
Canopy composition (underline dominant species): <u>Kanuka, Tawa, Nikau, Titoki, Kahikatea, Mahoe, Rewarewa, Mamaku, Pigeonwood, Matai, Ngaio,</u> and smaller secondary trees					
Vegetation condition (health):	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	Comments
Canopy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Subcanopy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Understorey/Undergrowth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Browsed out (goats, possums)
Ground cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Browsed out (goats, possums)
Notes: Overall in quite good condition now					
Vegetation trend:	Improving	Stable	Deteriorating	Don't know	Comments
Canopy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Subcanopy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Understorey/Undergrowth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ground cover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Notes: Excellent goat control recently; possums controlled to low numbers					
Regeneration:	None	A little	Moderate	Much	Main species/Comments
Canopy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Subcanopy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Understorey/Undergrowth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ground cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Epicormic shoots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Goats now all but gone; shoots appearing
Notes:					
Special plants (rare, threatened, local, distribution limits/anomalies, etc.):					
Species	No. (estimate)	Condition (as above)	Trend (as above)	Main threats/Comments	
Nikau	thousands	Good	Improving	Goats and pigs	
Notes:					
Threats, Impacts and Management urgency:					
	Minor	Major	Urgent	Not urgent	Comments
Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Goat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Keep on top of
Pig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Some sign
Possum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep on top of
Rabbit, Hare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cattle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rat, Mouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bait stations help
Vine weeds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blackberry no problem
Shrub, Tree weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Herb/Grass weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wandering jew seems gone now
Human visitor impacts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Survey/Monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Should be annual, ongoing
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Notes:					

RAPID ASSESSMENT FORM FOR ECOLOGICAL CONDITION AND TREND

FAUNA					
Overall fauna:					
	<u>Rel. abundance</u> ¹	<u>Condition</u> ²	<u>Trend</u> ³	<u>Main threats/Comments</u>	
Native birds	Mod	Fair	Stable	Predators	
Exotic birds	Many	Fair	Stable		
Bats	?	?	?		
Native reptiles	?	?	?		
Native frogs					
Exotic frogs					
Native fish	Mod	?	?		
Exotic fish					
Native land inverts	Mod	Fair	Stable	Rodents	
Exotic land inverts					
Native aquatic inverts	?	?	?		
Exotic aquatic inverts					
Other (specify)					
<u>Notes:</u>					
Special fauna (rare, threatened, local, distribution limits/anomalies, etc.):					
<u>Species</u>	<u>No. (estimate)</u>	<u>Condition (as above)</u>	<u>Trend (as above)</u>	<u>Main threats/Comments</u>	
Kereru	20	Fair	Stable	Mustelids, cats, rats	
<u>Notes:</u>					
Management needs:					
	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Urgent</u>	<u>Not urgent</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Deer control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Goat control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Pig control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Possum control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rabbit, Hare control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mustelid, Cat control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Needs addressing
Rat, Mouse control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bait stations help
Weed control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fencing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Needs maintenance
Human visitor management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low use levels
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bats, reptiles, stream life
Monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>Notes:</u>					

¹ None; Few; Moderate; Many

² Good (healthy, thriving); Fair (okay); Poor (depleted, struggling); Don't know

³ Improving; Stable; Declining; Don't know (?)

RAPID ASSESSMENT FORM FOR ECOLOGICAL CONDITION AND TREND

SPECIFIC CONDITION AND TREND INDICATORS FOR SITE/AREA					
[Examples: highly palatable plants, good food plants for birds, rare species, seedlings, epicormic shoots, possum sign, tracking, bark stripping, sensitive fauna, rampant weeds, visitor numbers, water quality, erosion, vegetation structure, bird population.....]					
Indicator	Condition¹	Trend²	Monitoring technique	Comments	
Epicormic shoots (Mahoe, Tawa, Wheki, Karaka, Cabbage tree, etc)	Poor	Improving	Observation	Chewed by goats in places	
Supplejack shoots	Poor	Stable	Observation	Mostly being chewed	
Nikau seedlings	Fair	Improving	Observation	Lots, some being browsed	
Ground ferns (Hen-&-chickens fern and young tree ferns especially)	Good	Improving	Observation	Indicator of browse history	
Titoki & Karaka canopies	Fair	Stable	Observation	Possum browse	
Broadleaved tree seedlings (Kawakawa, Mahoe, Tawa, Karaka, Titoki, Kohuhu, Rewarewa, Hangehange)	Fair	Stable	Observation	Some browse in upper reserve	
Overall understorey density	Fair	Stable	Observation	Indicator of browse history	
Tui & Kereru population	Fair	Stable	Observation		
Possum & Goat sign	Low	Stable	Observation		
Blackberry new growth	Good	Increasing	Observation	Sensitive indicator of goats	

MANAGEMENT HISTORY, CURRENT REGIME AND FUTURE NEEDS						
Control Programme	>10 yrs ago	3-10 yrs ago	Last 3 years	Current	Future Needs	
	Effectiveness	Effectiveness	Effectiveness	Effectiveness	Scale up	Status quo
	(o * ** ***)	(o * ** ***)	(o * ** ***)	(o * ** ***)		Scale down
Ungulate	*	*	***	***		✓
Pig	?	?	*	*	✓	
Possum	*	**	**	***		✓
Mustelid/Cat	o	o	o	o	✓	
Rodent	o	o	o	o	✓	
Weed	o	***	***	***		✓
Fencing	**	**	***	***		✓
Visitor impact	*	*	*	*		✓
Other (specify)						

Notes:

PRIORITY FOR MANAGEMENT							
Management Need	Priority			Urgency			When/Frequency³
	Low	Mod	High	Low	Mod	High	
Baseline survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Next 3 years
Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annually
Animal pest control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing
Weed control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Surveillance
Visitor management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As required
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

¹ Good (healthy, thriving); Fair (okay); Poor (depleted, struggling); Don't know (?)

² Improving; Stable; Declining/Deteriorating; Don't know (?)

³ Monthly, Seasonally, Annually, 2-yearly, 5-yearly, 10-yearly, Ongoing, etc.